

- In the four most populous counties, there were 274 primary care providers per 100,000 TennCare enrollees (1,268:462,930), whereas in the 91 nonmetropolitan counties, there were 70.4 providers per 100,000 enrollees (525:745,404).
- Of the 91 nonmetropolitan counties, the highest TennCare primary care provider-to-population ratios were observed for Grainger and Morgan Counties (1:4,622 and 1:3,964, respectively). The lowest ratios were noted for Davidson and Knox Counties at 1:257 and 1:291, respectively.

Health Resource Shortage Areas, as of July 1998

- Eighty-five Rational Service Areas (RSA's) each for primary care, general pediatric care, and TennCare primary care and 37 RSAs for OB care⁴² had been designated by the Tennessee Commissioner of Health as of mid-1998.
- Of the 85 RSA's for primary care, 29 or 34% had been designated as provider shortage areas. These shortage areas for primary care resources in Tennessee in 1998 included 30 counties with some clustering in East, Southeast and Northeast Tennessee and Northwest Tennessee (see map).
- Obstetrical (OB) service shortage areas, RSAs with inadequate or no OB services, represent 35% of the 37 RSAs in 1998. In 1996, 78% of counties were so designated. As of July 1998, the following counties were OB shortage areas: Fayette, Hardin, McNairy, Montgomery, Houston, Stewart, Perry, Lewis, Maury, Giles, Marshall, Hickman, Wayne, Lawrence, Robertson, Rutherford, Cannon, Bedford, Moore, Coffee, Franklin, Jackson, Putnam, White, Warren, Grundy, VanBuren, Monroe, Loudon, Blount and Cocke.
- Twenty-nine of 85 (34%) Rational Service Areas for pediatrics (ages 0-17) were declared shortage areas including 32% of all counties.
- Resource shortage areas for TennCare primary care in 1998 included 28 of 85 (33%) RSA's representing 30 counties and distributed somewhat differently than for all primary care services, with greater clustering in East, Southeast, Upper Cumberland and Northeast Tennessee.

Source: **Health Access Plan Update, 1998: The Blue Book**. Tennessee Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services, Tennessee Department of Health, July 1998. Thanks to Ann Hogan, Statistical Analyst, Bureau of Health Services, for her assistance and contributions.

⁴²Rational Service Areas are individual counties or groups of counties that have displayed obvious service patterns for residents based on available data.